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Application No.: 09/738,726  
March 12, 2003

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GROUP 3700

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3 and 19 from the Application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please cancel claim 1 and replace it with the following amended claim:

- C
1. (Amended) A container package assembly comprising:
- a first support member and a second support member, the first support member having a first side, the second support member having a second side, the first support member and the second support member being arranged along a common plane wherein the first side is immediately adjacent to the second side, each of the support members further comprise at least one wall, the at least one wall having a wall length, the at least one wall being substantially perpendicular to the support surface of the support member, the at least one wall tapering in height along one or more portions of the wall length from a first height to a second height, the first height being greater than second height;
  - a plurality of containers, the plurality of containers positioned on a support surface of the first support member and the second support member;
  - a top pad, the top pad positioned on top of the containers, the top pad extending over at least a portion of each of the containers; and
  - a film;
  - the support members, the plurality of containers and the top pad comprising an assembly, the assembly at least partially encapsulated by the film.

Please cancel claim 11 and replace it with the following amended claim:

- CD
11. (Amended) The container package assembly of claim 1 further comprising a third support member and a fourth support member, the third support member having a third side, the fourth support member having a fourth side, the third support member and the fourth support member being arranged along a second common plane, wherein the third side is immediately

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adjacent to the forth side, the second common plane being substantially parallel to the first common plane and positioned thereunder;

additional containers being positioned on a support surface of the third support member and the forth support member;

the first support member having a first lower surface supportively engaged by the additional containers positioned on the support surface of the third support member, the second support member having a second lower surface supportively engaged by the additional containers positioned on the support surface of the forth support member.

Please cancel claim 13 and replace it with the following amended claim:

13. (Amended) The container package assembly of claim 1 wherein the top pad comprises an area, the first support member and the second support member comprising a combined support member area, the top pad area being greater than or less than the combined support member area.

Please cancel claim 14 and replace it with the following amended claim:

14. (Amended) The container package assembly of claim 13, wherein the top pad is about 75 percent greater than or less than the combined support member area.

Please cancel claim 18 and replace it with the following amended claim:

18. (Amended) A method for packaging a plurality of containers comprising the steps of:  
providing a plurality of support members including a first support member and a second support member adjacent the first support member, the first and second support members having a plurality of containers disposed thereon, each support member having three sidewalls and an open side;

placing a top pad on top of the containers, the top pad extending over at least a portion of each of the containers; and